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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this department. All communications must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer to ensure publication.

CHICKENS

Dear Editor: I would like to communicate with some nurses who are interested in chicken ranches.

Illinois

AN I. T. S.—R. N.

THE NURSE ANESTHETIST

Dear Editor: After completing a three years' course in nursing, I took a course in general anesthesia at the Illinois College of Medicine and Surgery, but inasmuch as I preferred specializing in nitrous oxide oxygen anesthesia, I took a special course with Dr. I. E. McKesson, in Toledo, Ohio, the originator of the McKesson Nitrous Oxide Apparatus. Dr. Isabelle Herb, anesthetist at the Presbyterian Hospital, Chicago, gave courses in anesthetics at \$100.00 a month. I have been anesthetizer for a surgeon, and also at a hospital. I prefer hospital work. There were three anesthetists at this hospital and the work was arranged in accordance with our wishes. One reason why hospital work is preferable is that the hours are regular. When employed by a surgeon, one is interrupted, regardless of time, and is obliged to respond. I was called for all obstetrical cases, which involved considerable night work. About eighteen months ago I joined the army, serving six months at a camp in the United States, after which I was transferred to an evacuation hospital in France. Although the work at this hospital was very strenuous, I derived more satisfaction from it than from anything I had attempted before, for I felt that I was helping my country and relieving the suffering of our dear boys.

Kentucky

E. T. C.

PRIVATE DUTY NURSING

Dear Editor: The articles in the JOURNAL on Private Duty Nursing have been extremely interesting and encouraging to me, a private duty nurse. I feel very strongly that in these days of the after effects of the war,—the returning soldier, the church, and the thoughtful public are attempting one of the most difficult tasks, a reawakening, a real religion, a reconsecration to the common tasks, and a higher, deeper, wider sense of coöperation with one's fellow workers. On behalf of a class of women who have to face the circumstances of private life very intimately, who have to cope with them during abnormal and disturbing conditions, I would clasp the hands of those who feel and speak of this great need, for there is certainly no quality so needed for the moral support of the family and for the advancement of Christian civilization, to say nothing of the encouragement of the nursing service, as the spirit of sincere fellowship between employer and employee.

Massachusetts

E. K.

A MODERN HOSPITAL IN PORTO RICO

Dear Editor: St. Luke's Hospital in Ponce is a mission hospital under the Episcopal Board, with accommodations for sixty-five patients. Some of the buildings are only a year old. It suffered great damage during the earthquake of October, 1918. The operating room is a separate building, connected with the

hospital proper by a runway. It is light, with six windows, a tiled floor, sterilizing and dressing rooms. The main building is two stories high with balconies running all the way round on each floor. Down stairs are offices, waiting room, clinic, dining room, and the private ward. Up stairs are single and double private rooms. The public ward is a story and a half building, for both men and women. Some of the ward patients pay \$1.50 a day, but many are free patients. A large number of accident cases are received from the sugar centrals. We have also a good deal of malaria and typhoid fever. Most of the people are Spanish-speaking, but some speak English. There are fourteen Porto Rican pupil nurses; we should like eight more, as we are all very busy when the hospital is filled. Nearly all of the nurses speak English and they are taught in English. They enter the training younger than in the hospitals at home. The doctors are Porto Rican, but most are graduates of medical schools in the United States. I have been here since June, as instructor of nurses. I am also in charge of the public wards. I teach three classes each day except Saturday and Sunday. A graduate of the Presbyterian Hospital at San Juan, which is also a mission hospital, has charge of the private rooms and helps with the practical instruction. One doctor lectures on obstetrics, but irregularly. We need a nurse to take full charge of the operating room, and one for instruction, also a night supervisor. The hospital is on a high hill, with a constant breeze, and with a wonderful view of the beautiful country and of the broad expanse of sea. Ponce is very Spanish in every way, for there are few Americans. San Juan has auto trucks and electric cars. This country is a perfect wonderland and has a fine climate, the thermometer standing at 80 most of the time, with slight variations.

Porto Rico

K. I. W.

CARE FOR DISABLED ARMY NURSES

Dear Editor: The Public Health Service is preparing to give hospital treatment to the nurses discharged from the military service and eligible for such treatment under the Bureau of War Risk Insurance. It is known that about 400 nurses returned from France for physical disability to the port of New York alone. This does not include any of the nurses returning to any of the other ports or those released from service for physical disability in this country. Apparently the nurses have no knowledge of the fact that they are eligible for treatment and that this treatment has been provided for in the Act of March 3, 1919, which authorizes the Public Health Service to care for such patients as were designated to it by the Bureau of War Risk Insurance. Recently an arrangement has been made with the authorities of the Stony Wold Sanitarium of New York whereby a limited number of nurses with tuberculosis may be cared for. The offer of the place for these nurses by the Stony Wold Sanitarium was most timely and is greatly appreciated. In the near future a station is to be opened at Markleton, Pa., and twenty beds will immediately be available for nurses suffering from tuberculosis. Those nurses needing hospital treatment other than tuberculosis will be sent to Perryville, Md., where the service has available a number of six-room houses which have recently been prepared for patients. Each one of these units has a bath and sitting room; the nurses who are ambulant and able to do so, will be allowed to go to the club to the general nurses' mess, thus avoiding as far as possible the hospital atmosphere. Nurses from far western states will have provision made for their care in private institutions as near to their homes as possible. Information as to the method of procedure in obtaining this care and treatment should be obtained either from the Red Cross Bureau of